



## Your Story Matters

Mark 5: 18-20 | August 16, 2026

*As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.*

Mark 5:18-20

**Jesus has authority over the evil and darkness in our lives.**

**Jesus changes us when he shows us mercy.**

**Jesus tells us to share what he has done for us.**

**Your story matters.**

"Your story, your insight, your revelation of God's heart, is something the rest of us need."  
- Andrew Peterson

**You don't tell your story alone.**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere..." (**Acts 1:8a NLT**)

**Your story can help free someone from darkness.**

**What is your prayer for the Next Generation as they head into a new school year?**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**DivorceCare** begins: August 19 at 6:45 PM

**Rooted:** August 26 at 6:00 PM

**Habitat for Humanity Build:** September 20 at 12:00 & 1:30 PM

**Download our WCChurch app or scan the QR code for more info or to sign up!**



# STUDY QUESTIONS

## GETTING STARTED:

Has there ever been a moment when you had a clear opportunity to say something important and you held back? What happened?

## A DEEPER DIVE:

- » Read Mark 5:1-20 together as a group. What stands out to you most about this story? What details did you notice that you may not have focused on before?
- » The man in Mark 5 was living in isolation and darkness before encountering Jesus – in what ways can the people around you be living in a kind of darkness that is less visible but just as real?
- » Jesus did not send the healed man away with arguments or theological resources, but simply told him to share what the Lord had done for him – what does that tell us about what God values most when it comes to sharing our faith with others?
- » Many Christians feel their story is not dramatic or significant enough to share – why do you think we tend to measure the worth of our faith story by how extraordinary it sounds to others?
- » Andrew Peterson is quoted as saying that you know and understand things about the heart of God that only you can teach – how does that idea change the way you think about your own spiritual experiences and whether they are worth sharing?
- » The man healed in Mark 5 begged to stay with Jesus but was sent back to his community instead – what might it look like in your own life to channel your desire for more of Jesus into serving and reaching the people closest to you?
- » Acts 1:8 connects the power of the Holy Spirit directly to being a witness. What does it look like practically to lean on the Holy Spirit in a faith conversation rather than relying entirely on your own preparation and confidence?

## NEXT STEPS:

This Week, Choose One:

- » Write your story on a notecard. Take ten to fifteen minutes to write down one specific moment of God's mercy, provision, or transformation in your life. Keep it simple. It does not need to fill the whole card.
- » Pray for an open door. Each morning this week, pray a simple prayer asking God to open a door to share what he has done in your life. Pay attention to the conversations you have throughout the day. Notice the questions people ask. At the end of the week, reflect on whether any doors opened – and whether you walked through them.